

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Latin American Republics, except Cuba, the United States and the Alliance for Progress have launched a joint effort to eliminate the social and economic sources of chronic poverty, disease and hunger in this hemisphere through land and tax reform, technical assistance and public and private investment in the economies of the Latin American Republics. This ten-year program of self-help and mutual cooperation among the American Republics is aimed at overcoming the serious domestic political problems of these countries, which stem in part from the inroads of communists and other extremist elements. The improvement of the political, economic and social climate in these countries should make possible orderly progress benefiting the whole hemisphere within a democratic framework.

The Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the American Republics, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in January 1962, recognized that the communist offensive in the Americas poses a danger to the democratic institutions of the hemisphere. The Meeting took several steps to deal with this danger, including the exclusion of the present Government of Cuba from participation in the inter-American system. Another of its decisions called upon the Council of the Organization of American States to maintain vigilance regarding acts of aggression, subversion, or other dangers to the peace and security resulting from the intervention of Sino-Soviet powers in the hemisphere. In addition the Foreign Ministers provided for the establishment of the Special Consultative Committee on Security to assist governments in security matters. The Committee presented its initial general report on May 1. The embargo imposed by the United States on Cuban imports pursuant to the decisions of the Foreign Ministers has resulted in a loss of income to Cuba and hence in Cuba's capacity to engage in subversive activities in the hemisphere.

At the time of the Punta del Este Meeting, twelve of the American Republics had broken relations with Cuba. Since then two more, Argentina and Ecuador, have suspended relations. Only five Latin American countries still have relations with Cuba.

We have been in regular consultation with the other governments of this hemisphere concerning Cuba. On October 2 and 3, Secretary of State Rusk will meet informally in Washington with the foreign ministers of the other American Republics to discuss the situation in Cuba and to consider possible further steps.

September 25, 1962